



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a defendant has pleaded guilty to distributing five kilograms or more of cocaine in the Kansas City, Mo., area.

Loren Harris, 41, address unknown, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey on December 16, 2002, to a conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine between July 1999 and July 2001. **Harris** was indicted by a federal grand jury on January 17, 2002.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Harris** admitted that he purchased and sold at least 150 kilograms of cocaine in the Kansas City area.

As a result of his plea agreement, **Harris** could be subject to a sentence ranging from at least 10 years in prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lajuana M. Counts. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow